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TELEPHONE, BEEKMAN 1200.

The Attempt to Place an Embargo on Foodstuffs.

It is now certain that when Congress meets an attempt will be made to place an embargo on foodstuffs. Certain features of the situation ought to be clearly understood in advance of this attempt.

If an embargo is enacted it must be done solely because a condition confronts us, and not in behalf of any economic theory whatever. An embargo will be justified only if it shall be shown conclusively that we have exported or are in danger of exporting more than our surplus crop of wheat or other foodstuffs, and have not or are in danger of not having enough left for our home needs.

An embargo on foodstuffs is an act of extremely inevitable attended by serious consequences not clearly to be foreseen. It will not be justified by any theory of price reductions or by any extraneous aim, such as a desire for reprisal against British interference with our mails. An embargo may not have the effect of lowering prices, and it may injure more persons than it helps. It may be totally disastrous to some of our people while affording only slight relief to those it benefits. It may cause a future reduction of supply that will bring still higher prices.

If the farmer finds prices unduly lowered he will not trouble to increase crops which pay him no profit. Furthermore, the wage increases now being granted by many employers throughout the country are going some way to enable consumers to cope with higher prices.

To dissipate uncertainty and to ascertain the facts which alone can justify or condemn an embargo policy, the Department of Agriculture and the Federal Trade Board should immediately be directed by the President to set to work at gathering and publishing a complete census of food supplies throughout the country. If the facts as disclosed show a present or imminent shortage it will probably be best not to enact out and out embargoes but to restrict only so far as is absolutely necessary the export of foodstuffs.

The power to restrict exports is vested in Congress under the commerce clause of the Constitution, but may unquestionably be delegated by Congress, just as control of interstate commerce has been delegated to the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Congress should, if necessary, delegate this power either to the Federal Trade Board or to a commission especially formed by it.

The Unanswered "Why?"

Nobody who knows the Seventh Regiment doubts the patriotism of its members. It is therefore interesting to ponder the views of one soldier of the Seventh, as reported in the *Evening Post*:

"The next time I go down to Mexico or any other place I am going to be sure that there is a good reason for it. I am not fond of improving Texas real estate or building roads. If the move was one intended to kill the National Guard it has succeeded beautifully, and that is the light in which most of the men look at it."

Even the warmth of a fine reception at his home coming did not make the guardsman forget the puzzle of his going away and being kept away so many months.

Perhaps some member of the Administration who knows the answer to the puzzle will reveal the secret some day.

A Neglected Menace to Children.

Several years ago THE SUN called attention to the danger menacing children from open fires. We quoted statistics from the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, showing that during five years 458 children, from one year up, were fatally burned. It is noteworthy that while at the age of one to four casualties were slightly more frequent among boys than girls, double the number occurred in girls between four and five years of age and four times as many girls between five and ten were killed, and almost six times as many girls between the ages of ten and twenty. This fact is due to the difference in clothing. Incidentally the lesson is impressed that girls and boys should wear the same kind of clothing in their early childhood, when at play, and that the

romper stage for girls would be wisely prolonged.

We are led to these remarks by a recent circular of the North Carolina State Board of Health, which reports that during the last year 102 babies were burned to death in that State. The same tragedy is being reenacted this winter, according to the newspapers, which report one child's death from burns almost every day. These are classed as "deaths from preventable causes," according to the State Board of Health, in whose judgment this is too great a price in baby lives to pay for this form of carelessness.

The practical good sense of this Southern board of health, which has been hitherto alluded to in THE SUN, is evidenced from the recommendation of a "baby pen," constructed of light material, that would keep the child off the floor, clean and comfortable, and would permit freedom and exercise and the free use of its limbs. This pen, the construction of which is clearly described, could be moved from room to room, allowing the mother to do her work in full view of the child. The use of a fender for open fireplaces is not recommended. In its stead wire netting secured to the fireplace is advised.

Happily this menace does not exist to any great extent in cities.

The Colonel, as Is Often the Case, Is Right!

In a communication printed in another column of THE SUN Colonel Roosevelt disposes once and forever of certain rash critics who have questioned the exactitude of his recent reference to a certain incident in the history of New Bedford whaling. We congratulate him upon the analytical skill and authoritative brevity with which he differentiates two entirely distinct and unrelated anecdotes; namely, that of the captain who joined upon his mate a profane minimum of respectful silence, and that of the mate who so nobly scorned the conciliatory offer of his superior officer when he, the mate, had finally brought the whale alongside after having his professional judgment aspersed by the captain.

There is no subject, with the possible exception of the Fourth Dimension and the deathbed remark of HEINRICH HEINE, upon which there has been so much confusion of thought and inaccuracy of information. Colonel Roosevelt has added to his many eminent public services another of no small importance.

While he is wholly right as to the main point, the separate entity of the silence anecdote and the civility anecdote, we must venture to indicate to him a slight departure from the accepted and orthodox version when he reports the mate as replying to the captain that all he wanted was "see-vility, and that of the damndest commonest kind." What the mate axed of the captain (and our decorous types shall not shrink from the performance of their full duty) was "a little see-vility, and that of the damndest commonest kind." The precise phraseology of the aggrieved mate's dictum was first established, we believe, by the laborious but pleasurable researches of the late FRANCIS HOPKINSON SMITH in Bristol, Barnstable and Dukes counties, Massachusetts, and on Nantucket. The results of Mr. SMITH'S investigations were embodied by him in an invaluable monograph, long preserved in the archives of the Tilt Club. When that learned society came to untimely dissolution the authentic record passed into the possession of THE SUN.

It is not surprising that even Colonel Roosevelt should go slightly astray in reporting from hearsay the language employed by the mate in the see-vility story. There are many variant versions, as was shown seven or eight years ago when we printed an exhaustive series of controversial articles on the subject. So careful a scholar as WILL HICKOX LOW departs somewhat from the recognized text when he tells, in "A Chronicle of Friendships," how ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON heard with immense joy in France the narrative as told by American lips.

As has been said, the exact record is in the custody of this establishment. We have the facts, the remarks verbatim, and even the names (although unfortunately not the date); and these are quite at Colonel Roosevelt's service if his historical activities take him further into this interesting field.

Heraldry for Aviators.

Aviation experts are impressed by the complaint of MISS RUTH LAW, who recently flew from Chicago to New York, that it was impossible for her to identify from a high altitude the cities and towns beneath her. She found that no method yet devised enabled her to assure herself that a populous centre she was approaching possessed an aviation station at which she might alight. It is hard, she discovered, for a flier even close to the ground to make use of a code book that couples numbers or letters with the names of places beneath an aviator's chosen route.

Would not the use of symbolism, the employment of a kind of aviation heraldry, solve a problem that must be overcome before air navigation can become as popular as automobilizing? Though the name or number of a town cannot be plainly seen from an aeroplane, a heraldic device, constructed upon a large scale, would be visible from a lofty height.

Circumstances have conspired to make the above suggestion feasible. The crude beginnings of what might be called local blazonry have long existed in this country. To illustrate the possibilities of the scheme suggested, let us take, for example, the city of Troy, N. Y. A gigantic collar and pair of cuffs raised above its aviation station would serve to give even the least intelligent birdman his bearings. A huge bag of salt could put Syracuse on the aviator's map. A bottle of beer for Milwaukee, a plate of beans for Boston, a huge terrapin for Baltimore, an automobile for Detroit, an oak tree for Hartford, Conn., a big blue football for New Haven, Conn., a large phonograph for Orange, N. J., are among the heraldic devices that suggest themselves as applicable to the scheme.

Would it not be admirable for American aeronauts to establish at once a College of Town and City Heraldry for the Encouragement of Aviation? An alliance between local pride and the needs of airmen could be easily accomplished, and the thousands of men and women who are anxious to fly away from Chicago at the earliest possible moment would not be confronted by certain annoying difficulties that hampered MISS RUTH LAW in her recent aerial escape from the Lake City.

Little Rays of Hope for the Tired Straphanger.

The sections of one of the Seventh avenue subway tunnels under the East River were joined yesterday, and it is expected that the other tunnel of this line will be completely bored in a month. Next summer these tubes will be ready for final equipment.

Just west of the City Hall the way-farer may see the progress of that other great hope, the Broadway line. The entrance, down to the last non-slip step, is ready for the rush hour of that glorious day when the upper West Side shall be reached with hardly a turn.

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It is a long and weary while, even for the most patient people in the world. On Monday 1,400,000 persons travelled in a subway built for half a million.

What a day the day of the three tubes will be. Every person who can afford to should do his best to live until that day comes.

The Dragonman in the Cave of Treasures.

All the fascination of authoritative historical knowledge invests the speculations of Sir EDWIN PEARS upon the future of Turkey. The venerable chronicler of Byzantium is no mere logothete. He knows the Ottoman statesmen of today—ENVER PASHA, TALAT BEY and the rest—from personal acquaintance. He thinks Constantinople will emerge from the war either a Russian port or an internationalized city. He thinks the Turks may continue "as an inland, self-governing State of Asia Minor with Koniah as the capital." Armenians, Syrians and other subject peoples will have to be freed.

Asked about the possibility of literary discoveries if Constantinople falls into European hands, Sir Edwin is reported as saying:

"Well, one hears a good deal about such things. The only European who ever was given a free hand in the libraries at St. Sophia or Seraglio Point was the first dragonman of the German Embassy. They gave him a week at Seraglio Point. He told me afterward that he had come across manuscripts which he thought were the lost books of Livy, but in a week's time he had been unable to do more than skim the surface of the collections."

This utterance will excite all the avarice of scholars. We look for the war to be prosecuted with more vigor than ever.

The Nineteenth Century and the Twentieth.

The glory of the nineteenth century lies largely in its success in abolishing human slavery.

Can it be that the twentieth century will undo, even partially, the good work of its predecessor?

Such a query two years ago would have seemed absurd.

CABRANA must sometimes wonder whether he is really First Chief or a bad second.

There is no end to the prophecies put forward as to what is to happen to this country when peace comes to Europe. They are all worthless, and will remain so until Uncle SAM makes up his mind what he is going to do about the Monroe Doctrine.

In all the records of the Society for Psychical Research there is no such belligerent ghost as VILLA.

We are doing this [the action in Belgium] according to our best judgment and conscience.—Military Governor von Bismarck.

A reluctant world is obliged to believe him.

Let American pacifists bear in mind that there has been in Rumania for years past a strong faction opposed to preparedness.

It seems to be high time for Dr. Cook to buy an aeroplane.

Perusal of the current news leads to the conclusion that the wages of sin remain at about their usual level.

There is nothing the matter with the pleasant, economical menu of the Chicago diet squad except that it is cloying and expensive. Solvers of the cost of living problem will do well to serve nothing but pencil and paper.

If Europe hears the history of some of our cold storage eggs an embargo on their colds would be superfluous.

It's high time for Russia to expect every Russian to do his duty.

MADISON SQUARE GARDEN.

An Appeal to New Yorkers to Save Diana's Home.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: As you know, I am going to sell Madison Square Garden on December 8 at public auction, and it occurred to me that the city might make use of a piece of property as well known and as centrally located as this. I understand there is some talk about a municipal market, and this property could be used for this and other city purposes, and rented at other times during the year for conventions, horse shows and other amusements for the people at large. In this way the Garden could be made a paying proposition. It might also be used for a training school for the police, firemen and other city departments.

I think the property will be sold at a very reasonable figure, and it is a pity New York city with all its fine hotels and great population should not have one grand, centrally located hall of this kind. Nearly all of the other prominent cities in the United States have them, why not the greatest city of all?

I think if the city gave one-half and there was a public subscription for the other half, say, from \$1 to \$5 each by all citizens, hotel men, etc., it might appeal to the general public to preserve this centrally located Garden.

Civic pride should not be dead here.

HYMAN L. KENNEDY.

New York, November 27.

A. T. STEWART'S PICTURE.

The Merchant Photographed at Saratoga for the Stereoscope.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: What's that? A. T. Stewart never had his picture taken? Wrong, and I know it. In the summers of 1876 and 1877 I was working in the leading photographic studio at Saratoga Springs, and I remember that hundreds of the then popular stereoscopic views of the merchant prince was in every one of them. In those days of the slow wet collodion plate it was some stunt to grab things which are now so easily secured by the quick dry plates and quick working lenses. Just the same the great merchant was photographed, sitting at the end of a group on the veranda of the Grand Union Hotel.

Just what year the prize was secured I cannot say; but at that it was considered a scoop and the prints had a great sale. The photograph was recognized to all who knew Mr. Stewart. Among collectors, and while little stereoscopic views of Saratoga Springs come one must have one.

U. S. KELLER.

Utica, November 27.

BELGIUM.

Thoughts on American Indifference to an Enslaved Nation.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: Is it possible for any American with a heart to enjoy the coming festivities, Thanksgiving and Christmas, in view of the present calamity in Belgium? No matter where our sympathies are in this world war, we can remain indifferent at this wholesale deportation and banishment of Belgians from their country? Is it not our duty to protest in some way?

While we are sitting by the fireside in our homes thousands of families are being cruelly separated because their bread winners refuse to work for their country's enemies.

I sometimes imagine that it is all a dream; my love for America drives me to doubt the truth of our indifference. But it is reality, and while little Belgium is in mourning we here are worrying whether Mayor Mitchell will permit us the usual revelries on Sunday and Monday night of the coming year.

JONAS LIPPMANN.

New York, November 28.

Whitney Warren's Criticism Finds Approval.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: As an American and a Union soldier I have to thank you for publishing the scathing and merited criticism of Whitney Warren, a New York architect now in France, upon the inaction of the responsible representatives of our Government at Washington during these war times. His words, "We shirked our share in the human downfall, and while the pacifists who apparently dictated the country's course while humanity was being outraged by savagery," AMERICAN.

New York, November 28.

Belgium: The German Condo.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: Can individual Americans do nothing to register their detestation of the latest damnable outrage committed against our unfortunate Belgium? Should the present Administration at length protest, what weight would such a protest carry?

Would it be unneutral for individual Americans to sign a gigantic protest, and will THE SUN lead us in this?

KENT, CONN., November 28.

Sidewalk Reform Needed in Hackensack.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: It is high time the people here put their sidewalks in proper condition. They are now in such shape that people are in danger of smashing their necks. And the light at night is awful; the pedestrian cannot find half the streets.

WALKER.

HACKENSACK, November 27.

Was James A. Bailey Born Magician?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: James A. Bailey was born a Magician at Detroit, Mich. He began his circus life as a candy butcher with James E. Conner's circus. He did not know Conner's circus.

FRANKIE of the perfect understanding.

H. CLARK.

New York, November 28.

Missouri Bank and One Depositor Falls.

From the Clinton Democrat. Only one depositor lost money in a recent bank failure in Clark county. William Kompa, a farm hand, thought his money would be safe if placed in a tin can which he hid in a haystack. When he went to add to his account the other day the tin can and the \$28 were both gone.

THE WHALER CLASSICS.

Ex-President Roosevelt Examines Certain Loose Statements About the Utterances of the Profane Captain and the Profane Mate and Draws a Precise Distinction Indispensable to the Truth of History.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: I regret to say that your correspondent who took exception to my quotation about the statement of the New Bedford whaling captain to his mate has confounded two classics, committing a fault analogous to that of confounding Virgil's *Aeneid* with the Georgics. It was the mate of a whaler who, after a time of stress with whales, stated that all he wished from the captain was "see-vility," and that of the damndest commonest kind; whereas it was on another and entirely different occasion that the captain of a whaler addressed a refractory mate with the statement that "All I want from you is silence—damned little of it."

It is a matter of profound regret to me to see the New Bedford *Mercury* falling from grace in such fashion as to ignore even the fact that these are two totally distinct stories. For the information of the New Bedford *Mercury* I will state that while I cannot myself claim to be a whaling ancestor, yet that my children's names, Corcoran and Starbuck, among their forebears. The two anecdotes are as I have given them; but I am not able to state with precision who among the four characters were Corcoran and who were Starbuck.

Nantucket papers please copy.

THOMAS ROOSEVELT.

Oyster Bay, November 27.

THE PRUNED LOBSTER.

Its Forester Reports His Experiments in a Grove of Crustaceans.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: To reduce the high cost of living I have evolved a new scheme. It is a well known biological fact that if a lobster, by accident or fell design, lose a claw, another will in time replace the lost member.

On my Bronx estate, which is the most sequestered of West Farms, I have established a herd of lobsters. They are quickly becoming injured to local hardships, and bid fair to become arithmetical experts, to the extent of multiplying rapidly.

Each day I clip a claw apiece from several lobsters, thereby securing a delicious dish for the evening repast. In time I shall have claws for sale, and in time my little pen will have new claws ready to pick.

All, however, is not beer and skittles. My neighbor keeps chickens, one of which seemed to like lobsters. She got out of bounds, and although she did not devour a lobster, she had to sell him for a chicken. Lobster was the gallery of other neighbors being present, the welkin was duly rung, hurrahs being as usual employed for the purpose. No body said aught of the saying clause.

Getting a little tired of claws myself, I decided to kill the old leader of the lobster herd and have a whole lobster for dinner. So I shot the bull. He was a guy who put the crust in crustacean.

RICHARD P. READ.

New York, November 28.

JUDGE HOOK'S DECISION.

Should Have Given Reasons, but May Not Have Been Hasty.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: I heartily concur in your able editorial article, so far as you say Judge Hook should have given his reasons for the decision in the case of the Adamson law, but I do not concur in the other criticisms of the honorable Judge.

It is proper in every case for the court to give reasons for the faith that is in him and the basis of his decision. But I can see no ground whatever for a criticism of the decision. Judge Hook may have been, like many other Judges and lawyers, so thoroughly convinced that the law is unconstitutional that it required no prolonged consideration.

I have been from the very day the President signed the Adamson act satisfied that the Supreme Court would be obliged to say that the act on one ground or another was in conflict with the Federal Constitution, and so expressed myself in a New York newspaper.

JAMES C. JENKINS.

New York, November 28.

"BOY WANTED."

What Promise of Advancement Goes With the Call for Help?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: Not long ago a letter signed "Employer" appeared in THE SUN expressing deep concern at the scarcity of boys for employment. He speaks of "the right kind of boys," and by that I suppose he means boys who are honest, intelligent and industrious. I wonder if it has ever occurred to him that he might find some boys having those qualifications who would be glad to enter his employment, particularly if the boys understood at the start that they would be advanced with efficiency and that their limit was the top.

I know of no employers in New York who open such a door of opportunity to the colored boy and the colored girl.

A. C. BOLLING.

New York, November 28.

A VAIN PROPOSAL.

The Constitution of the United States Forbids Taxes on Exports.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: May not an embargo be avoided by giving those who may desire to ship products abroad the option of doing so under a tax which would deprive them of excess profits?

Such a tax might be determined by taking the average of the prices of various articles for a term of years, including those of the war, and taxing shippers the full amount of any price above such average; making the entry of the selling price a prerequisite to any manufacturer forbidding the sale abroad of any article specified minimum quantities; while to foreign Governments any quantity might be sold at the "average" price determined.

ANTI-EMBARGO.

WILMINGTON, Del., November 28.

THE POSITION OF PAPER IN THE MARKETS OF THE WORLD.

Consideration of Present Widespread Difficulties With Regard to Supply and Demand of Materials and the Methods of Manufacture, and the Remedial Measures Applied in Different Countries.

The war has produced a batch of essays covering the manufacture of paper from the first leaf and fibre to a book by Teubner and the Oxford University Press. From Salzmann's work on the mercantile economy of the trade, "Die Papierindustrie," to the technical and botanical treatise of Montessus, "Fabrication des Celluloses," is the range compassed by professional writers on paper making; it might be even truer to say that a range through such sciences as munitions and dyes is permitted to any careful investigator who is working this field.

It appears that the paper trade has many interests, the fiscal, industrial, structural, historic, chemical, military; for paper is now used in making shells, as Mr. Phillips recently said in his address on "Paper Supplies as Affected by the War" (the *Journal of the Royal Society of Arts*, February 18, 1916). Salzmann's work is a book in which the secret machinery of the trade is pictured. His method is impartial. On the one side he shows us the effects of combination, as represented by the trusts, and on the other there is stability as represented by the collectivism of the "news" paper union or "Druckpapierverband" of Germany and the subsidized units of Kartelle, as he calls them, which are apparently almost independent concerns in a sort of coalition to fix prices and output. He approves this system, which evidently has worked well in Germany owing to the cheapness and abundance of skilled labor. It checked the downward movement in the price of news print paper, which had brought it to a very low level.

But, above all, the union of the mills engaged in making half stuffs has tended to cure two evils of the trade, overproduction and overpricing of new factories, while it has enabled Germany to recover quickly from the inevitable cycles of depression which visit trade. A trust fails to perform these primary functions of restricting production and maintaining prices. At least, in Salzmann's opinion, the history of paper manufacture shows that trusts have not met sudden requirements like those of the present war or those of the Boer war or those of 1900, at which time the price of "news," on account of natural and economic causes, rose 33 per cent., while the price of wood pulp rose 50 per cent. This evil influence is not a thing of yesterday. It commenced in 1908, when the American paper trust, with its restriction in output, produced, say, 170,000 tons of "news," whereas the German mills produced 225,000 tons. If the accuracy and completeness of Salzmann's information may on occasions be doubted, not so the substantial truth of his statement, primarily and essentially he is right. Crediting trusts with the utmost intelligence and unscrupulousness, he does not see how they can reduce permanent profits from the present paper market. A good deal of apprehension has been aroused and traders feel unsettled. Manufacture continues to expand without any corresponding effect on prices.

The point in this situation that strikes the economist most is the emphasis of the fact that what tells in international paper competition is the capacity to produce on a large scale at a moment's notice. Not only the raw materials but the mills upon which the paper trade depends are international in extent. In the peculiar circumstances of the present time large orders, which are practically open to tender, go to any country, not because its workmen are better than others, but because upon short notice and within the time of contract they can furnish the work, given adequate supplies of materials. The capacity of rapid production depends simply upon having a large plant running always at full pressure. This in its turn depends upon the certainty of the home market, which enables the manufacturer to produce largely and therefore economically, with dumping as a resource to fall back upon in periods of depression caused by overproduction or overvaluation. The weaker sort of trust magnate generally prides himself amazingly on what he deems the consistency of his business policy. He is slyly incredulous of the heavy loss inflicted upon the unfortunates who are victims of his policy. Dumping is of course injurious but to the market and retailer dumped on, and not to the trust which dumps. The danger for the moment is closed. It is closed as much as the double danger of competition from abroad and overproduction at home. Supplies from Germany and Austria have been cut off, and supplies from Norway, Sweden, Holland and Finland have been greatly affected. But if current events are any indication the old spirit of unrest which gave the paper trade its panicky character is still here, both in those who find the money and those who find the organizing brains. Everybody is grown so cautious that nothing is done. This is not the mood by which an industry attains to and keeps ascendancy within the world of trade. The confidence of deterrent causes still makes for those old evils of the paper industry, the speculation springing from fear of high prices and the consequent decrease of production. From these the paper business never seems to emerge entirely.

But if these facts account for the success of the manufacturer in stampeding the market into panic prices, they do not account for the amount of the turnover. It is obvious, as has been pointed out by Mr. Phillips, that

the markets are once more short of raw materials, wood pulps, esparto, cane, coal, chemicals and dyes. Formerly England imported all her wood pulp and America, which now comes first as a paper making country, has found it difficult to supply all foreign demands, chiefly owing to high freight, which make the shipping of pulp and cheap grades of paper very expensive. Prices are hardening in all markets, and mill owners are not ready to